

## NATIVE PAPERS

Week ending the 5th April 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād" ... ..	Rājshāhye	.....	
3	"Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā" ... ..	Bhawānīpore	.....	
5	"Suhrid" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh" ... ..	Cālnā	.....	
7	"Hindu Lalānā" ... ..	Nawābgunge, Barrackpore.	.....	
8	"Sahayogī" ... ..	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	25th March 1879.
10	"Banga Hitaishī" ... ..	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....	
11	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	658	27th ditto.
12	"Bhārat Sanskarak" ... ..	Harinābhi	.....	
13	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
14	"Bishwa Dūt" ... ..	Tāliganj, Calcutta	.....	
15	"Bardwān Prachārikā" ... ..	Bardwān	165	
16	"Bardwān Sanjivānī" ... ..	Ditto	.....	25th March and 1st April 1879.
17	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	400	23rd and 30th March 1879.
18	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	1,168	28th March 1879.
19	"Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	200	22nd ditto.
20	"Hindu Hitaishinī" ... ..	Dacca	300	22nd ditto.
21	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye	200	
22	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	28th ditto.
23	"Pratikār" ... ..	Ditto	235	
24	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	13th ditto.
25	"Sādhārānī" ... ..	Chinsurah	516	30th ditto.
26	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	31st ditto.
27	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	.....	
28	"Sambād Bhāskar" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
29	"Sanjivānī" ... ..	Mymensingh	.....	18th ditto.
30	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	5,500	
31	"Soma Prakāsh" ... ..	Bhawānīpore	700	29th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
32	"Banga Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
33	"Samāchār Sudhābarshan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
34	"Sambād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	550	21st and 27th to 31st March 1879.
35	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	.....	28th March to 3rd April 1879.
36	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	27th ditto to 2nd ditto.
37	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
38	"Arya Mihir" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Howrah Hitakari" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah	300	
40	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	28th March 1879.
41	"Barisāl Vārtābāha" ... ..	Barisāl	300	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
42	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	400	29th ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
43	"Akhhār-ul-Akhiār" ... ..	Mazufferpore	.....	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	509	2nd April 1879.
45	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	27th March 1879.
46	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	31st ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
47	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	28th ditto.



## POLITICAL.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
March 25th, 1879.

THE *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 25th March, writes, in reference to the Viceroy's mention of the "brilliant success" achieved by the British troops in Afghanistan, that his readers must be aware of the course of events. Shortly after the declaration of war, General Sir Sam Browne attacked the fort of Ali Musjid. He was not successful on the first day. On the next day, however, when it was found deserted by every body, the British flag was hoisted over and possession taken of it. After that the General advanced up to Jellalabad, and has spent the winter there. There is now no enemy in the country. Is this an unprecedented victory? General Biddulph has taken Candahar without any fighting and without shedding a drop of blood. Is this an unprecedented victory? The Kuram fort also was found to have been deserted and was then taken. The only fighting that could be boasted of was that at Peiwar Kothal, but even in this critics have found much to condemn. Compared with the wars which have in recent times taken place in Europe, it is doubtful whether the Afghan war deserves the name of war at all. The reason why the present war has not occasioned such expenditure and loss of human life as in those referred to, is, not that there has been any display of military skill or knowledge on the part of the invaders, but that there has been no real fighting at all. The lives that are lost have been lost through the cold and disease. Again, it may be inferred from the attitude of Yakub Khan that severe fighting is unavoidable. Under these circumstances the talk of "brilliant successes" does not become the lips of the Viceroy. The death of Shere Ali has removed all possibility of punishing him, the object for which the war was declared. If annexation of territory were the object, that has not been gained, for British rule has not been introduced even into those tracts which have been already occupied. So that in no respect could the war be spoken of as a success. Possibly by declaring a war with the brave people of Afghanistan, and hoping to defeat them in their mountain homes in the cold season, Lord Lytton intended to retrieve the prestige of the British nation. If that be the case, the time for boasting has not yet arrived. It appears that instead of being ended, the war is but beginning.

The Afghan War.

SADHARANI,  
March 30th, 1879.

2. The rumours, says the *Sádháráni*, of the 30th March, respecting the willingness of Yakub Khan to listen to terms of peace now appear to have been unfounded, and it is said that he is making great exertions to prevent the invasion of Cabul by the British. Yakub is said to be even more popular than his father. This change of attitude on his part, which was so little expected, has quite dissipated the happy dreams of the invading army who had thought of spending the hot season in other than active operations. Even if Yakub Khan had expressed his willingness to enter into a treaty, the British army would still for the sake of their prestige have had to march to Cabul and occupy it, even though there had been no need for this. But by so doing they would have been the gainers, for the places where the troops are now encamped become, as it were, furnaces of fire in the hot season, and besides this it is difficult to obtain provisions in these localities. The climate of Cabul is much milder, while provisions are more easily procurable. So that, if the British troops could have reached Cabul early in the summer, they would have reaped many advantages. It is also possible that they would have secured the friendship of the inhabitants. But the expedition to Cabul has now become quite a different matter. The Amir, who was the enemy of the British, and against whom the war was declared, is dead, and the quarrel is not with his son. If the long confinement he has

The war.



undergone has not altogether warped his intelligence, he must be recognized as a veteran warrior. There is hardly a single place in Afghanistan where Yakub has not marched his troops; a single fort, throwing himself into which he has not repelled the attacks of his enemies. Besides this, he is the idol of the people, who are always under his influence. He has rallied the dispersed army of his father. Hostilities having been suspended for a time, the new Amir has clearly explained to his troops that the British Government is making an unjust war upon them, and that if it had just ground for its action before, that ground has disappeared since the death of Shere Ali. It is just possible that Yakub Khan has inspired with courage the minds of the Cabul force by using some such language, and that they are eagerly waiting to receive the invading army. While this is the case on the one hand, the commanders of the British forces have not on the other as yet given any indication of military skill. The passes now they will have to traverse will possibly be guarded by Afghan troops. Nor can they expect that the people will be friendly towards them. It is possible that, by this time, all articles of food, and even every blade of grass, have been removed from the localities through which the invading army is likely to pass. The British troops will not go with sufficient cheerfulness, being impelled on their course by necessity. Yakub has really expressed his reluctance to enter into a treaty. Nor does it appear from his conversation that he stands in any fear of the matchless power of the British lion. After referring to the mismanagement of the commissariat arrangements, the writer thus concludes the article. After a brief interval of repose, the British drum has again sounded, and the British army is again proudly on its way to Cabul. We pray to God that it may achieve the same success which it won at the outset.

3. Adverting to the enormous public debt of Russia, the *Sahachar*, of the 31st March, observes that her condition is one of undoubted bankruptcy. Why then does she bluster so much? By her steady

The financial condition of the Russian Empire.

*SAHACHAR*,  
March 31st, 1879.

and persistent efforts to rival in wealth England, the wealthiest country in the world, she is only making herself a laughing-stock with all nations for her vain ambition. A poor person is looked down upon, nay killed even by his own wife. Russia occupies much the same unenviable position.

4. The following observations are extracted from the opening editorial in the same paper. Every body will concur in the observations which were made by Sir George Campbell in the course of the

Certain points connected with the administration of India.

*SAHACHAR*.

debate on the motion of Professor Fawcett for the appointment of a Select Committee to enquire into Indian finance. As to the British rule, no difference of opinion exists, and its continuance must be desired. Protests were made from all sides when Lord Dalhousie was making annexations of Oudh and other States in India, but we can assert with confidence that for this measure posterity will adore that ruler. How vast is the difference between the Oudh of Wajid Ali and the Oudh of to-day. How vast the progress made within the space of 23 years. At the present time Russia is the only rival of England in Asia. Now, almost every body in this country hates the Russian Government, and will, in case of a war with that power, assist Government to the best of their ability, notwithstanding the distress that prevails at the present time. There can never be any doubt regarding the continuance of the British rule, and, as a matter of fact, no one, even in his dream, would have any. But the evil is that public debt and expenditure are gradually increasing. To say that the parties responsible for the administration of the country willingly indulge in extravagant expenditure would



be a crime in the sight of God. There cannot be a particle of doubt that they are all men of wisdom and experience and really desire our welfare. But the rulers are perplexed, and in spite of their endeavours the people continue to suffer, thus making it evident that it is the system of administration which is really at fault. First, the change of Viceroys every five years is not found to be beneficial; for under this arrangement there cannot be any continuity in the policy of Government, and the minds of the people are consequently unsettled and restless. Thus while Lord Mayo and his successor clearly stated their conviction that direct taxation was not suited to this country, and the latter abolished the income tax, the Government of Lord Lytton has imposed a license tax, and, if the rates of exchange continue to be unfavourable, may introduce a tax on incomes also. It is our wish that some member of the Royal family should be appointed as ruler of India; failing this, a Viceroy should be required to hold office, at least, for ten years. If this were done, the ruler would conceive an attachment to the country, while the people also would be free from anxieties, and the foundations of a fixed policy laid. As it is, the public measures introduced by one administration are wholly upset by another. Now, the people of this country do not like such constant changes. We are firmly persuaded that although public opinion does not agree with the views of Lord Lytton at the present moment, this would not continue to be the case if His Excellency remained for any considerable period in this country. He would then know the people and begin to love them, who also would be happy. Secondly, the people should have some voice in the administration of the finances. Time has not indeed come when any system of representative Government might be introduced among the people, but the rulers may, nevertheless, establish a Council for advising them on matters of finance. It may not be binding on the authorities to act according to the suggestions of this Council, but the proposal has this advantage that while by this means they may make themselves acquainted with the views of the people, they will be able to act according to their own judgments. Every body of course understands that for the purpose of good administration it is necessary that considerable expenditure should be incurred. Nor would the people be unwilling to pay any tax should Government require it. It is not so much the tax as the form of that tax which the latter feel as a hardship. In Bengal, for example, an enhancement of the duty on salt would not be protested against; but Government labours under the notion that it would be wrong to make this. The Rulers would have been disabused of it had they but known the real views of the people on this subject. The establishment of a Council is necessary for this purpose. India should have a separate army for her own purposes. That the main portion of the revenue is expended on the army is admitted on all hands. No one can of course have any objection that it should be kept at that strength which is necessary for the defence of the empire. Another thing also should be done. The armies of the Native States should be incorporated in the Imperial army, while the Princes should be made Generals, the Commander-in-Chief reserving the supreme authority in his own hands. There does not appear to be any necessity for maintaining the separate armies of the Native Princes. The proposal now made, if carried out, will have a two-fold advantage. It will not be necessary for the princes to keep so large armies as they now possess, while the Government of India will be able to make a reduction of expenditure. Considering that Government defends the country from all external invasions, and that Native Princes equally with ourselves enjoy the blessing of peace, it is but just they should bear a portion of the expense of defending the empire.



The Secretary of State should hold office permanently, it not being desirable that the incumbent of this office should change with a change of the ministry. Nor should India be governed according to the exigencies of party in England. In the work of administration, especially in financial matters, the Government of India should have greater liberty accorded to it. In practice, however, the Secretary of State now rules by telegraph; the people when they are put to any hardship blame the Government of India. This state of things is never desirable, and the reforms indicated above are really necessary. The most important of them, however, is that which relates to the residence of the Viceroy for a considerable period in this country.

SAHACHAR,  
March 31st, 1879.

The meeting of the Indian Association on the import duties and the cost of the Afghan war.

5. Adverting to the meeting lately held in the Town Hall to consider what steps should be taken to petition Parliament on the subject of the cost of the Afghan war and the Indian import duties,

the same paper writes as follows:—The meeting was attended by about three thousand persons, and it was resolved to petition Parliament. Meetings have also been held in the mofussil for the same purpose, and we believe more petitions will pour in. The spectacle of the whole country thus working unanimously is a very gratifying one; and we must acknowledge with gratitude that the members of Parliament are now devoting an increasing attention to the affairs of India. This has inspired us with greater courage, for we are convinced that if once the matter be represented to the English nation and Parliament, they will influence the action of the Government here. Parliament exercises unrivalled power over the affairs of the empire, and the conviction is universal that there will be no injustice done by it. In order that we may obtain justice in Parliament, it is, however, necessary that we should state only facts, and our prayers should be reasonable. Ordinarily, the House is bound to support the actions of the Government of India: we shall have to prove that a particular line of action is wrong. We are glad that the speakers at the meeting lately held were able to make good their points. They do not say that India is not willing to pay even one pice of the expenses of the Afghan war; for almost every one will admit that it is being waged for guarding the frontiers of the Indian Empire, though at the same time a regard also for the prestige of England has had some influence with the ministry in determining this course. In these circumstances the meeting has acted wisely in proposing that the cost of the war should be borne conjointly by England and India. They have not discussed the policy of Government in connection with this war; it would also have been well to do so. Since the war has begun, the people must come to the assistance of Government. The proposition regarding the import duties is also reasonable, and the speakers have in this matter only expressed the public opinion. It would have been better, however, if the reference to Lord Lytton and the British Indian Association had been altogether omitted. Both the European and the Native communities have been unanimous in declaring that His Excellency has not acted fairly in this instance, and the press, too, has strongly protested against his action. So far we should be content with what has been done; and it is not proper on our part to quarrel with the chief ruler of the land over this matter. However repeatedly we may attack his administration, still we cannot forget that personally he is entitled to our highest regard, and is the representative of Her Imperial Majesty. What is done is done; and it does not behove us to remember it for all time. By nature, Lord Lytton is courteous and polite. It is not proper to quarrel with him for an exceptional case. For these reasons we should have preferred



if the latter portion of the second resolution adopted at the meeting had been omitted. It is, indeed, gratifying to note that the speakers did their duty respectfully, but firmly, and we trust that similar petitions will be sent to England from other parts of India. And here we would make one representation to His Excellency, and that is, he should not put a tortuous construction on what has been said and written regarding the policy of his Government. The phrase "Lord Lytton's Government" means the policy which originates with himself. Now this has nothing to do with either the fundamental principles of the Government or the question of our loyalty to the ruling power. The course we are following towards the Government of Lord Lytton is precisely similar to what is being done by the Liberal party in England towards the ministry; and we ask that the fundamental principles of Government be not dragged into the discussion. It is true that we are making protests, but our regard for the highest ruler in the land remains intact; and at all times and under all circumstances are we conscious that, however strongly we may protest, we are bound to abide by all his orders. We ask that His Excellency may comprehend the real motives of our own action and that of our countrymen.

SAHACHARA,  
March 31st, 1879.

6. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper on the war:—From watching the course

The war.

of events, it appears to us as probable that Yakub Khan will not desist until he has offered battle. The commanders of the British army, therefore, are advancing upon Cabul. We regret to notice that the Candahar force is not showing sufficient activity. It is not known with certainty how this is to be accounted for, but we fear it is the commissariat which is again at fault. As time passes away, however, there is an increasing expenditure taking place. We hope the Government of India will despatch sufficient troops to the Generals in the field. The war will soon be brought to a termination if two armies advance simultaneously from two different sides. The public do not see why this is not being done. The Russian papers, indeed, disclaim all intention on the part of their Government to interfere in the affairs of Afghanistan; still this cannot be relied upon. Not to speak of the Russian press, how far the declarations of the Russian Government itself are worthy of credence has been shown in the Khiva expedition. A few days ago Sir Stafford Northcote informed Parliament that one Russian regiment had crossed the Caspian Sea and that its destination was unknown. Considering that England is at this moment engaged in a war with Afghanistan and carrying on another in the land of the Zulus, while in Burmah also there is probability of a third, it would not occasion surprise if a dishonest Government like that of Russia should think this an opportunity for intrigue. If Russia agrees to an open fight, we have no fear for the consequences. For once before was England engaged in a more serious affair. She is now able to do more than what she did in 1760. In spite of the distress that prevails at this moment, a war with Russia will secure to Government the support of the whole people. Still it is desirable that Government should consider all the aspects of the question, and make no delay in conquering Cabul and Herat. Russia may be permitted to come in if she so pleases, but before she actually appears on the scene, Yakub's forces must be annihilated. Let a considerable force be despatched at once, for the Generals stand in need of them.

SAHACHARA.

7. The following is from another article in the same paper headed the

The gratitude of Manchester.

"Gratitude of Manchester:—"—Manchester is never to be gratified. In spite of the distress which prevails, the Government of India was so troubled by her importunities that it has been obliged to forego a revenue of 20 lakhs of rupees. But



she wants more, and demands the total abolition of the import duties. Instead of being grateful to the Government of India which has done so much for them, the merchants complain that more concessions have not been made. Let the Government of India now see what a thing Manchester is. She is not anxious for the principles of free trade; what she wants is to nip in the bud the nascent industry of this country. She will, of course, gain by this, but will it be a gain equally to Government? Owing to the prevalence of peace and good government, the population has increased so much that the profits from land alone do not now suffice for the needs of the people. It is for this that a failure of the crops produces so much misery and makes it almost impossible to store up grain. Government is also for this reason making arrangements for promoting agriculture in the colonies. But, even with all this, the results achieved are not satisfactory. The interests of the State require that a portion of the people should be able to support themselves by manufacturing industries. The Government came to recognize this truth in connection with the measures of famine relief. Wherever mills have been established in this country there the labourers are invariably found to be prosperous; and it really makes one happy to see their condition. Now Manchester wants to change this state of things. But will she be able to do this? We reply, no. She is waging a war with Nature, and will not be able to ruin our cloth-mills. It appears from the report submitted by Messrs. Hope and Maclean that though the duty had been already taken off certain description of goods, still Manchester did not any longer export them. The reason is obvious. The piece-goods of Manchester contain much adulterated matter. In order to impart a glaze to their cloth, the merchants largely use China clay and other stuffs, and the article appears in its true colour as soon as it is washed. For these fraudulent practices, in this country, as it has been in America, Manchester goods are not valued. As soon as a single hole or gap appears in a Manchester cloth, the whole piece must be discarded. The products of the Indian mills, however, are free from adulteration and last long. The cotton is produced in the country, while labour is cheap. It is therefore a matter of certainty that although the duty has been abolished, Manchester will gradually be driven from the Indian markets.

8. Referring to the despatch of troops to Burmah, the *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 22nd March, writes as follows:—

A war with Burmah.

It is probable that the British troops will enter Burmah just as they did the dominions of the Amir, and, like Cabul, the period of Burmah's independence must have drawn to a close. That the account of cruelties of the new king published in the English newspapers is not wholly true we can understand, still we must write as though we believed them to be true. Although Burmah is independent still, the British possess considerable influence in it. They, however, blame the king more than he deserves, simply because he is a barbarian. If the Resident at the Court of Burmah has acted as certain Europeans and the respective Residents in the courts of Scindiah, Holkar, Travancore, and the Nizam generally act towards the Princes, and as the political officer at Baroda acted towards Mulhar Rao, Guicowar, then it must be admitted that the sun of Burmah's independence is about to set. The writer deprecates a war with Burmah now when other wars are also going on.

HINDU HITASHINI,  
March 22nd, 1879.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

9. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th March, notices a wide prevalence of bribery and corruption in the Jamalpore sub-division of the Mymensingh district.

Mr. Donough.

SANJIVANI,  
March 18th, 1879.



Mr. Donough, the sub-divisional officer, has been about 14 years in this place and, in spite of repeated representations made against him, has not yet been transferred elsewhere. His amlah are all illiterate.

GRANVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
March 22nd, 1879.

10. The *Gránvártá Prákáshiká*, of the 22nd March, observes that the erroneous impression that, like the nations of Europe, the people of India also are able to

The effects of war.  
incur public expenditure is a fruitful source of misery to the country. Her arts and manufactures have been ruined, while she derives but little profit from commerce. As jute and other articles of export are more extensively grown, the extent of land for the cultivation of the food-grains must diminish, and this has been the case; and yet while the people of India are starving, food-grains are exported. But no corresponding improvement in agriculture, however, has taken place. The people all hanker for situations in the public service. It is rarely that any high appointments are conferred upon them; the subordinate offices, which the Europeans do not condescend to accept, fall to their share. The emoluments, however, do not counter-balance the labour, reproof, humiliation, slaps, blows, and kicks which the incumbents of these offices are exposed to. While owing to high prices it is hard to earn the necessities of life, a want is felt for English articles of luxury.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
March 23rd, 1879.

11. In a long article on the reply of the Viceroy to the memorial of the British Indian Association, the *Dacca Prákásh*, of the 23rd March, makes the same observations on the subject as those noticed in paragraphs 14 and 15 of our report of the 22nd March 1879.

ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
March 25th, 1879.

12. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 25th March, thus writes in the opening paragraph of an article on Lord Lytton's reply to the memorial of the British Indian Association on the cotton duties:—Nowadays the disposition of the rulers is becoming increasingly haughty; the highest ruler Lord Beaconsfield is the haughtiest in his disposition and is appointing to the several offices in State men of the same disposition. We had hitherto thought that Sir Ashley Eden was a man of this nature, but in this matter Lord Lytton would seem to be his great-grandfather. Now we do not disrespect rulers of this stamp; in one respect they are our great benefactors, for their conduct might lead the Bengalis, who are ever dependent on others to learn self-reliance, and teach self-respect to the nation which is always eager for favours at the hands of Government. If our more well-to-do brethren would not take us under their protection, if our wealthier relations showed us indifference, if in approaching Government with petitions we were driven away by it, and if in going to prostrate ourselves at the feet of the rulers they spurned us, we might feel humiliation, and until this was done, there would be no progress. The present rulers are constantly putting forth efforts to evoke this feeling in our minds, and should these efforts be successful, they would be acting as our true friends. Once before Sir Ashley Eden invited a number of gentlemen to Belvedere and abused the Bengalis as an ungrateful and low people given to lying propensities. This produced disgust in the minds of many Bengalis, who, from that time, have given up going to durbars. Twice or thrice did the members of the British Indian Association make memorials to Government which were on each occasion not only refused, but Government addressed insulting observations towards the memorialists. This also brought many back to their senses, who have given up making memorials; but from fear of losing their prestige, the members of the British Indian Association have all along winked at these



insults. They again, consequently, on a late occasion, went to urge their suit before Lord Lytton dressed and equipped, some in brocade, some wearing diamond rings, some in a coach-and-four, others heralded by mace-bearers, and all the while making long bows; and we have the authority of Baboo Kristodas Pal and the *Hindo Patriot* for saying that the petitioners have been insulted by Lord Lytton. This is indeed cruel to a party who has made almost every sacrifice to obtain the favour of Government.

13. This paper takes the same view of the Lahore correspondent's letter in the *Som Prakásh*, of the 24th February last as has been taken by the *Sahachar*\* and the *Sadharani*. He condemns the language of the writing in question, but not the motive of the writer; and observes that English newspapers, such as the *Statesman*, and Parliamentary Speakers commit greater excesses of language. In fact it should not be surprising if the correspondent unwittingly followed their example. The present case shows clearly the difficulty of maintaining an invidious distinction between races living under the same Government.

14. Adverting to the petition forwarded by the British Indian Association to Parliament deprecating the proposal to charge the cost of the Afghan war upon the Indian revenues, the same paper remarks:—The spectacle of these meetings and memorials exceedingly amuses us. What good do they do? On how many things have we petitioned Parliament, but not in one instance have we been able to meet with success. What then is the good of holding meetings and making petitions? Government seems now to have firmly resolved that it will never undo what it may have done, no matter whether the action was good or otherwise. Considering that such a fearful measure as the Act for taking away the liberty of the Native Press has been passed, and even approved of by a majority in Parliament, we do not believe that such small matters, as the cost of the Afghan war, will be attended to by the House.

15. Referring to the sentence passed by Mr. Justice White in the case of Raymond Driver, the tea-planter whose assaulting a native labourer resulted in the death of the latter, the same paper does not blame the Judge for the tenderness thus shown to the prisoner who is a European. What is expected from him is that, instead of punishing native offenders with imprisonment for 10, 15, and even 20 years, as he is wont to do even for light offences, he should extend towards them the same leniency which Europeans experience at his hands.

16. The same paper believes that Pandit Harsahay, the dismissed Subordinate Judge of Furackabad, has been reinstated in his post, and remarks that in this act Lord Lytton has shown the greatness of his heart. The grievances of India would all have disappeared by this time had His Excellency but acted independently in this way. But Lord Lytton is a simple person and moves as he is moved by others. At the present time he has fallen into the hands of certain intriguers, and hence it is that he is making blunders in many matters. We pray to God that he may speedily be delivered from their hands, and that his whole life be spent in redressing the grievances of this country.

ANANDA BASAR  
PRATIKAR,  
March 25th, 1879.

ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA.

ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA.

ANANDA BASAR  
PRATIKAR.

\* See paragraph 11 of our last Report and paragraph 23 of this.



SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
March 26th, 1879.

17. The *Samvād Purnachandrodaya*, of the 26th March, complains that in the public hospitals the native patients are not treated with the same care and consideration which are bestowed upon those who are Europeans and East Indians. Government is asked to enquire.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

18. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 27th March, observes that the *Som Prakāsh* is *in extremis*. Old as it is in age, for its learning and dignity also it has been an able leader of the vernacular newspapers.

The *Som Prakāsh* and the Government.

After the warning, however, addressed to it in the Gazette, and the call upon the printer to enter into a bail-bond and make a money deposit, there is no expectation of its further continuance; and by this time, perhaps, it may have departed this life. The letter of the Lahore correspondent and its official translation are then referred to, and the Editor observes as follows:— We do not approve of the language of this letter; and any writing which may have really a tendency to excite disaffection towards Government is heartily despised not only by ourselves, but by the entire Native Press also. In our criticisms on public measures we have been hitherto guided by two principles, namely (1), that the country is really loyal to the British rule, and that its welfare is bound up with the continuance of the latter; and (2), that however much the Government might frighten us by passing one law after another, it sincerely believed that the people were loyal to it. We, however, now see that not only does the Government of Lord Lytton not confide in us, it has no longer the same confidence in its own ability and greatness as formerly. How else would we account for the circumstance that a Government so powerful that its merest frown might dislodge the sun and moon from their fixed orbits and cast them down on the earth, was troubled in its mind by the appearance of a few lines in the correspondence columns of a Bengali print? Is it then really the case that through contact with the corrupt atmosphere of India the experience and wisdom of Lord Lytton have lost their lustre? Never under the administration of Lord Bentinck, Canning, or Mayo, was it given to us to see the Government so troubled in its mind by a trifle. Who would have taken any notice of the letter in question had not Government done so? How many read a Bengali newspaper at all, and how many among them again read the letter of correspondents? And although we ourselves edit a native paper, still we must confess we have seen the letter for the first time. We had thought that after the agitation that was made both in England and India Lord Lytton had discovered the error into which he had fallen in passing Act IX, and we had believed that the great and noble heart which gave birth to the Fuller minute, that a person who was so devout a follower of the graces of language and sentiment as His Excellency, could not long lose the natural greatness and breadth of his mind through any contact or association, even if they might be less prominent in any single instance. Further, on the occasion of introducing the Bill for the amendment of Act IX, His Excellency referred to the improvement that had taken place in the tone of the native papers; and Sir Ashley Eden also has corroborated the statement in his annual Administration Report. Precisely the same observation has been recently made by the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* in commenting on the Afghan war. The agitation in Parliament, the disposition of Lord Lytton, and a consideration of the power and ability of Government, all these had led us to believe that Act IX would be merely confined to Statute-book and would not be enforced. With the extinction of the *Som Prakāsh*, the whole Native Press has been in a manner deprived of its life. No native paper will henceforth have the courage to express the honest opinion of the country. Many important



matters were occasionally discussed in the native papers, and their object being the same as that of Government, namely, doing good to the country, they were but auxiliaries of the Government in the furtherance of this purpose. The privilege which the Bengali community is now about to be deprived of will not be made good in any other way. The rest of the writer's observations are the same as those noticed in paragraphs 11 and 15 of our last Report, and those contained on the article of the *Hindu Patriot* on the same subject.

19. The same paper in writing on the cost of the Afghan war, observes with regret that it has been thrown upon India. Considering that the war is still

The cost of the Afghan war.

to be prosecuted, the estimated expenditure of two crores of rupees will probably be exceeded; and to saddle this country with the charge at this time when it is groaning under distress, deficit, taxation, and debt will not be a piece of simple cruelty. But what has become of the loan of two crores asked for from the Home Government? There is no mention of it anywhere in the Budget. We are glad to see that the Indian Association is about to protest against the unjust decision of Government in this matter. The war with Afghanistan, on the one hand, and the probability of another breaking out with Burmah, on the other, and the circumstance that famines are of frequent recurrence show what our condition is. What else is there wanting to our prosperity?

BEHARAT MINER,  
March 29th, 1879.

20. The same paper writes of the cotton duties that few in this country were aware of their existence, and the increase in the price of cloth caused by

The cotton duties.

this means was not felt as a burden by the people. It was not desirable that a feeling of increasing rivalry should be kept up between Manchester and Bombay in connection with these duties; and, at least, even on this consideration alone they should be abolished. Fine reasoning this! Now we want to ask that Manchester of course has been gratified by their repeal, but are the merchants of Bombay equally pleased or not? There is, however, this to be said that the Government of India does not much mind whether Bombay is pleased or otherwise. The condition of the finances is not at all satisfactory; even Lord Lytton has admitted this. Is the present then the time when the duties could be abolished? Would not Government have conferred a real boon upon the country if it had remitted, though partially, the license tax which is grinding the poor and has called forth such complaints. The abolition of these duties has evinced a lack of wisdom on the part of Government, while it has struck a blow at the root of the rising industry of Bombay.

BEHARAT MINER.

21. Adverting to the sentence passed upon Raymond Driver by Mr. Justice White, the *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 29th March, remarks that the observations made by His Lordship to the effect that the punishment inflicted, although it would be considered light for a native, was a severe one for a European, and that the assault was made in a fit of anger were uncalled for. For if a European gets angry with a poor labourer, the latter may easily be relieved of his life.

The case of Raymond Driver.

SULABHA SOMACHAR

22. The same paper considers that the discontinuance of the *Som Prakásh* will be a real loss to the people. Everything now depends upon the generosity of the Government, and a little forbearance will show its greatness.

The *Som Prakásh* and Government.

SULABHA SOMACHAR.



SADHARANI,  
March 30th, 1879.

23. The following is taken from an article in the *Sādhārāni*, of the 30th March, headed the *Som Prakāśh* and Act IX of 1878. The sleeping lion has awakened, and there is no escape for us. Truth to tell, we had firmly believed that although Act IX was passed, it would still remain a dead letter. The country had in one voice protested against the measure, and even the Viceroy, a few days after it had become law, observed that an improvement had taken place in the tone of the vernacular prints. We were not therefore much mistaken if for all these reasons we thought that the Act would not, at least for some time to come, be enforced. We have, however, now discovered our error. In these days of imperialism, it was not to be expected that a stringent law like Act IX would long be allowed to remain a dead letter; it has been enforced against the *Som Prakāśh*. We were sorry to read the translation, and on comparing it with the original, found that the latter was not an editorial but the letter of a correspondent from Lahore, who had passed some strictures on the Afghan policy of the Government. Not one of the remarks made is either unjust or unfounded. The language, however, in which they are expressed, is somewhat rude. For this, however, has Government inflicted on the *Som Prakāśh* all the penalties provided in the Act, namely, the warning, the bail-bond, and the deposit. The punishment has been more severe than what the offence deserved; the simple warning would have answered the purpose. As it is, the procedure adopted gives evidence of the existence of a malice against the Native Press. For our own part, we have never approved of such writing as had any tendency to excite distrust of, or disrespect for Government; and we sincerely hate the newspapers which indulge in such writing. It is our desire that Government should learn to sympathize with us, and that we may learn to consider ourselves as happy at the prosperity of our rulers. We are fully aware that this object will never be attained by unjustly vilifying the Government; nay more, it will widen the breach between the rulers and the people. Hence it is that an editor who gratuitously foments ill-will towards the Government is quite unfit for his work, and if the British Government inflicted on him the severest punishment, we should not have anything to say against it. We do not say that the language of the correspondent's letter in the *Som Prakāśh* is entirely free from fault; this, however, must be observed that since the objectionable matter is contained in a letter and not in an editorial, it was not prudent to invest it with so much *eclat*. For this would defeat the very object of the Government, and give a wider publicity to the writing in question, than it would ever have attained without that means. We notice with regret a diminution of intelligence in the present English rulers. We have seen a Bentinck and a Canning, and we also see the worthies of the present day. The difference between them appears to be as vast as that between heaven and hell. Compared with the language which is employed by certain English papers, the strictures of the Lahore correspondent are expressed in but a mild form. By this, however, we do not wish it to be understood that we are extenuating the offence of the *Som Prakāśh* or any other paper. What we wish to do is to deprecate the adoption of any such stringent measure as has been adopted in this instance for a light offence. Such a course would more become a weak Government, which really deserved censure for its injustice. Now the British Government is unequalled in power and justice and other virtues befitting a sovereign. The people never wish it evil; and exceptional cases should be regarded as effects of silliness in the writers.



24. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 30th March, in an article on the *Som Prakāsh* and the Vernacular Press Act, reproduces the observations noticed in paragraphs 11 and 15 of our last Report.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
March 30th, 1879.

25. The *Sahachar*, of the 31st March, thus writes regarding the *Som Prakāsh*:—The *Som Prakāsh*, the journal which changed the Bengali language and the spirit of the Bengali newspapers, has ceased to exist. It is needless to state that the whole country mourns its loss. Government might well have dispensed with the warning under section 6 of the Vernacular Press Act. We trust that the Governor-General will reconsider the matter, and we again repeat that a private communication would have met the requirements of the case. In judging of the language of any writing on any political topic, a literal interpretation of all the words used should not be resorted to. The tie which binds England and India is so strong that native writers and speakers are apt to think that those who differ from Government on any question of policy may use the same language towards it as is employed towards the ministry in power by the Opposition in England. The people here, like the members of the Opposition, do not attack the constitution. We earnestly ask that Lord Lytton should understand this, and a reconsideration of the subject by His Excellency in this new light will be exceedingly gratifying to the public. This will not be derogatory. Never question our loyalty, although we have ever been accustomed to address our rulers in plain language. Carrying the corpse of his son in his arms, the Brahmin presented himself before Ram Chandra in the open court, and said in no hesitating voice: "For thy sins, O King! my son has died this untimely death." Ram Chandra did not punish the Brahmin for this; nor did the latter, when he reproached the king for his son, wish that his rule had been at an end. It behoves the rulers to construe our words with a due regard to our national character.

SAHACHAR,  
March 31st, 1879.

#### LOCAL.

26. In connection with the projected railway from Memari to Santipore, a correspondent of the *Sādhārani*, of the 30th March, asks the Lieutenant-Governor to so divert the line from the road now fixed upon as to make it pass near the villages of Guptipara, Somra, Sukhria, Balagor, Khamargachi, and other villages on the banks of the Hooghly. The inhabitants of these places have now to travel by either the East Indian Railway at Panduah or the Eastern Bengal Railway at Chagdah, both of which are about twelve miles distant. The state of the roads is bad, while boats are not always available for crossing over the river.

SADHARANI,  
March 31st, 1879.

27. A correspondent of this paper speaks of Mr. Thrett, the Assistant Commissioner of Hazareebagh, as a civilian who exceedingly dislikes the natives. It is said that one day a Hindusthani riding past before him, he exclaimed in wonder "What! an Indian on horseback before a Magistrate!!" We do not recollect whether he swooned and fell down after this.

SADHARANI,

28. Another writing to the same paper notices an inordinate increase of drunkenness among the inhabitants of villages occasioned by the introduction of the outstill system, and apprehends an increase of crime from this evil. The attention of Government is drawn to the matter.

SADHARANI.



SADHARANI,  
March 24th, 1879.

29. Another writes to the same journal to complain that the members of the punchayets under the jurisdiction of thana Govindgunge in Rungpore are being harassed by the two head-constables in charge, who require the former to fill in under penalty certain forms regarding the collections of the chowkeedaree tax. Each time they came to the thana with the forms filled in, they were returned with contemptuous treatment. The object of this has been, of course, to compel these ignorant men to make some payment to the constables.

SAHACHAR,  
March 31st, 1879.

30. A correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of 31st March, observes with regret that although the municipal tax has been levied in the Chanduria Union, in subdivision Satkhira, of the 24-Pergunnahs, for the last twenty years, and although about three years have elapsed since the union was formed into a second class municipality, thus augmenting its income, still, owing to the indifference of the Vice-Chairman, the work is not yet properly conducted. No meeting has been held during the last twelve months. The Chairman, who lives twenty miles away from this place, knows almost nothing of all this.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,  
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 5th April 1879.*